

**UTAH CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION  
ON  
CHEMICAL WEAPONS DEMILITARIZATION**

**Thursday, January 15, 2004  
Utah Division of Environmental Quality  
6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.**

**Those in attendance:**

Gene White  
Beverly White  
Jane Bowman  
Deborah Kim  
Rosemary Holt  
Geoff Silcox  
David Ostler  
Dennis Downs  
Michael Keene  
John Bennett  
Sid Hullinger

**Members absent:**

Dan Bauer

**1. Welcome/Minutes – Deborah Kim**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Debbie Kim. The July minutes were approved as written, motion by David Ostler, with a second by Michael Keene. The November minutes were approved with minor editorial changes, motion by Beverly White, with a second by David Ostler. All in favor.

**2. Follow-up items:**

- a. **Extend invitation to Dr. Paul Joe** – Motion was made by Beverly White with a second by David Ostler to invite Dr. Paul Joe from the CDC to come and present to the CAC about the new AEGLS. All in favor. This topic has been discussed before but there are new recommendations have been issued.
- b. **Disassembling procedures of weapons – Stephen Frankiewicz.** This was discussed in item #5, Plant Status.
- c. **Chemical composition data in munitions – Marty Gray. A handout was provided.** The chemical data shows high levels of mercury in the ton containers due to corrosion. These containers have been around for a very long time and they are starting to corrode. Nothing alarming has been found.

No questions

- 3. Desert Chemical Depot Update – Colonel Cooper. A handout was provided.**  
 There were 12 leakers since the last CAC. Over the Christmas holidays, the depot was shut down due to cold temperatures and snow. The resources were stretched to the limit and caused several problems. Currently DCD is preparing for the Lewisite Ton Container Sampling Project. The reconfiguration of the mortars is going on now as well. The Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) is running now, and preparing for trial test burns at Oquirrh Mountain Facility. Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) continues to make ONC deliveries to TOCDF in support of chem. Demil activities. California National Guard still on site, but will be rotated in early spring. Colonel Cooper stated he did not know who will replace them. The Commander of Army Materiel Command will be visiting the depot and DCD. He is responsible for worldwide Army logistics.

No questions

- 4. Program Status – Dale Ormond. A handout was provided.**  
 Johnston Island has closed six months early. Some sample results are still being processed. By the end of April, the lessons learned documentation should be available and by September, complete plant closeout should occur.

Q-DO What tonnage did Johnson Island destroy compared to TOCDF?

A-JACADS disposed of more than 2000 tons of chemical weapons and 410,000 munitions, which equates to about 7% of the US stockpile.

Q-RH – In Anniston, were the citizens concerns addressed?

A-Dale – To the best of my knowledge they were. The Army delayed start up for almost one year to address emergency management issues etc. to the satisfaction of the citizens the best that they could.

Gene White – The chair of the Anniston CAC indicated that the Army spent a lot of money and time to address the issues of the citizens. There are other plants in Alabama that cause more problems than the chemical demilitarization program.

Q-GS – Does the present weather inversion alter operations at all? Are there any special precautions which are needed?

A-Col. Cooper – Each morning there is a de-briefing and we make the operation safety issues daily.

- 5. Plant Status/Restart Update – Stephen Frankiewicz. A handout was provided.**

The safety record continues to be strong, 545 days without lost injury. No detectable agent released from plant stacks and there have been no level 3 action events. As of Jan 11 04, 20% of the nation's stockpile has been destroyed. TOCDF was in possession of 42% of the nations stockpile and 45% of the 42% has been destroyed. Agent destruction is scheduled for completion in November 2007. In November, a management decision was made to suspend the processing

for several reasons. There were inconsistent monitoring results which were obtained. Some of these changes could have been related to water in the sample line, which occurred because of temperature drops and environmental conditions. A test station was set up and modification of the probe was done. Integration of different changes and precautions were made. This process took six weeks to implement before the plant was approved to begin processing again (January 6, 2004). During this time, TOCDF maintained full RCRA and LQAP compliance. A very detailed explanation was given about projectile processing. Reference: PMD=projectile/mortar disassembly machine. MDM=multipurpose demilitarization machine.

Q-DK-What is done with the rejected projectiles?

A-They are put off to the side or in a containment room. There are a lot of criteria for rejection and they are dealt with in a number of different ways.

**AGENDA Item for MAY 2004 meeting: Requested that the Mustard strategy be discussed at the CAC meeting.**

Q-DK-Could you explain DAAMS tube monitoring?

Dale Ormond – Depot Agent Air Monitoring System. This is a more accurate system – long term monitoring vs. the ACAMS (which is near real time)

Q-Is this the Industry Standard?

A-The way of monitoring is used throughout the chemical demilitarization program and has been reviewed by the National Academy of Science (NAS) and the oversight board. It is used to comply with the new AEGLS.

**Questions from the Citizens:**

Jason Groenwald (JG)-To follow up to industry standard, how is the Army responding to the proposed legislation (the proposed Bunning Amendment) as far as upgrading the monitoring systems and are you looking at implementing any of these systems?

A-The Army is using State of the Art technology, are other ideas, funding R & D projects which is an ongoing project. The Army is always looking for the best and reliable ways to monitor. If there are any better ways found, we would modify our programs to implement them at all sites, but nothing has been found that is better than what we have.

Q-JG-Regarding some reports released back in 2000, it was reported that there were problems with condensation in the probes.

A-When we did have a release, there were several events which occurred: the system detected the agent; the alarms worked the way there were supposed to, constantly monitoring for low levels of release. If agent were detected, action would be taken to resolve issues. Oversight by has been provided by the CDC, who reviews all data sent to them and also provides statistical analysis. The

systems are adequate and reliable. We have very high confidence in the monitoring system.

**Proposed agenda item for the March, 2004 meeting:**

**JG-I would like to request a briefing on improvements in the near future related to monitoring improvements upgrades**

Dale Ormond – I will identify who this person would be and contact them. I will find who would be the person to come and discuss the different technologies that are being tested or looked at and possibly discuss the other ideas that haven't been used and why.

Col Cooper – All the technologies are evaluated. There are multi million dollar studies going on called COTS (Commercially Off The Shelf Technology Studies). They take the technology used today and study it.

Q-JB-What are the issues between incineration and alternate technologies?

A-Dale Ormond – There are a host of issues between the two. Incineration has been proven to destroy 100% of the agent. At the currently operating neutralization facility, Aberdeen has struggled with some of the issues that we would not face. Neutralization is a chemical process. Bench top chemistry works well with pure agent, but when decomposing materials are added, it causes problems that require additional steps to work through. The neutralization process has caused a lot of frustration. Residual chemicals are still being found. There are issues of getting rid of it all. With all chemical munitions, the biggest risks are incurred in the unpack area and projectile processing area. The nice thing about incineration is that there is very little to no secondary waste to deal, unlike the neutralization process.

JG – Generally, there have been concerns about processing there are very viable technologies out there.

Comment: Gene White – I had an opportunity to discuss the situation with people in charge of the hydrolysate program in Indiana. They are all very frustrated with the situation. I am convinced that whatever comes out of the stack is safer than spraying DDT or whatever in my yard. Statistics show that you are more likely to get sick from lifestyle choices than environmental issues. I feel strongly that the community is not at risk.

**6. DSHW Update – Marty Gray.**

Marty gave an update as to what actions are pending at TOCDF:

We are responding to final comments regarding the permit renewal. The new permit should be issued by March. We are overseeing and collecting data from the trial burn for the Liquid Incineration Furnace (LIC).

The MPF is scheduled to be stack tested in late March or April.

We have not processed spray tanks. They need to be compliance tested prior to doing those.

MPF Discharge airlock – a class 2 modification has been submitted and has been upgraded to class 3. We have issued a temporary authorization to operate under proposed permit conditions.

Q-DK – Will you please review the differences between class 2 and class 3?

Class 2

This is a modification of EPA Table Regulations.

They are somewhat of a “big deal” and require a 60 day public comment period.

Class 3

Class 3 and Class 2 are basically the same modification but Class 3 involves a rewrite of the modification and then the Class 3 Modifications are put it out for another 45 day comment period.

There are two modifications out for public comment right now: the agent monitoring plan which ends Jan 21 and a modification for the agent collection tanks . TOCDF wants to fill the 1000 gallon tank full, right now, however the risk assessment allows for the 1000 gallon tank only being filled to 500 gallons.

Q-Why?

A- They wanted to have some reserve space. The risk assessment was conducted with filling the tank to 500 gallons.

At CAMDS, we have four modifications pending regarding the MPF.

There is Lewistite at CAMDS . They don't have the permit to process the 10 ton containers.

Q-RH – Regarding the permit renewal, have you expressed all the concerns that have been brought up?

A-There have not been a lot of high priority items, it includes some additional reporting requirements etc.

Q-DK-Are the appropriate medical safeguards in place and written into the permit before these things begin?

A-There are parts of the permit, but mostly we leave that up to the experts.

Col. Cooper-We have improved in the safety area from the Depot standpoint. We have a full time industrial hygiene physician which is part of the program, we are better now than we were six months ago. The Army's process is pretty mature for ensuring worker safety, and yes that is part of our program.

JG-Has your office been contacted about changes and requirements for handling secondary waste from TOCDF and processing waste from this facility?

What requirements are for waste classification and what would it mean if those were changed?

A-There is some proposed legislation that may change the fee structure so that facilities in Utah may compete with other facilities to destroy waste. As far as permit changes this is not anything new that would require permit changes.

## **7. New Business**

The time for meetings is to be consistent beginning at 6:30 p.m. at each location.

The meeting dates are:        March 18 – Tooele  
    May 20 - DEQ  
    July – TBA  
    September 16 – DEQ  
    November 18 – Tooele

Sid will check on the availability of Ophir Park for the July picnic.

## **8. Citizens Concerns**

A letter was distributed to the commission that was in the Tooele Transcript Bulletin, dated January 13, 2004. This letter was from Tom Cramer discussing safety issues at the depot and a copy was provided to each commissioner. The issues raised warrant further investigation. Jason Groenwald discussed the letter and the allegations. Mr. Cramer indicates that the air monitoring system does not work. Mr. Groenwald asked if it would be appropriate to invite Mr. Cramer to express his concerns to the commission.

After lengthy discussion about inviting this person to present at the council, it was decided to formally invite Mr. Cramer to present at the this forum to present any issues that he has, but it must be pointed out that the commission and Mr. Cramer cannot discuss any issues regarding David Yarbrough or to the criminal investigation that is currently underway. It was pointed out that this commission is always open to citizen's comments; hence agenda item #8 entitled "citizen's concerns". Mr. Cramer will be invited to present at the commission while providing the commission a document summarizing the items of discussion. All commissioners were in favor of inviting Mr. Cramer to the next meeting. Debbie Kim will draft the letter and it will be formally sent to Mr. Cramer inviting him to the March 18 meeting, but it will also state that he has always been invited to come and discuss any concerns he has regarding the Chemical Demilitarization program, which is why this commission is in existence.

## **9. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Beverly White, with a second by Sid Hullinger. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.